

## Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10

FDRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 VO-03

SCA-01 NSCE-00 /090 W

----- 107354

P R 301218Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3572

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL UDORN

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2926

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, VN, LA

SUBJECT: SITUATION OF VIETNAMESE IN VIENTIANE SUBSEQUENT TO GVN  
SURRENDER

1. ACCORDING TO SOUTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER  
IN VIENTIANE, WHO IS CURRENTLY IN HIDING, HIS EMBASSY OPENED  
FOR BUSINESS AS USUAL APRIL 30. MORE THAN 200 VIETNAMESE  
NATIONALS WERE THERE AT EARLY HOUR TO OBTAIN ENDORSEMENT  
IN THEIR PASSPORTS FOR TRAVEL TO "ANYWHERE."

2. FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT OF GVN SURRENDER TO PRG, WHICH  
WAS RECEIVED BY EMBASSY STAFF AT APPROXIMATELY 1100 HOURS,  
AN OFFICIAL NORTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY CAR APPEARED AT SOUTH  
VIETNAMESE CHANCERY CARRYING FOUR GBPEJNS. TWO  
NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS ENTERED CONSULAR SECTION  
AND "CHASED AWAY THOSE INSIDE." CONSULAR OFFICER SAID  
THAT HE CALLED LAO MIXED POLICE, BUT THEY ONLY RESPONDED  
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AT 1430 HOURS. THROUGHOUT MOST OF DAY, A SMALL BUT

HOSTILE CROWD OF APPROXIMATELY 30 PERSONS, ALLEGED TO BE NORTH VIETNAMESE, HAVE BEEN MASSED OUTSIDE CHANCERY FENCE.

3. I CALLED ON SECRETARY OF STATE TIANETHONE CHANTHARASY LATE AFTERNOON ON ANOTHER MATTER BUT ALSO TO BRING URGENTLY TO HIS ATTENTION THE SITUATION THAT SEEMED TO BE DEVELOPING REGARDING THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY. I WENT OVER THE FACTS SUCH AS WE KNEW THEM: ONE VIETNAMESE WIFE OF U.S. CITIZEN HAD HAD HER GVN PASSPORT TAKEN AWAY BY "NORTH VIETNAMESE" WHEN SHE HAD GONE TO GVN EMBASSY THIS MORNING; SUBSEQUENT DEMONSTRATION AT THE EMBASSY; RUMORS OF THE PL POLICE ARRESTING VIETNAMESE; AND THE RESULTING FEAR THAT WAS SPREADING THROUGHOUT TOWN. I MADE CLEAR THAT I WAS NOT REPRESENTING THE VIETNAMESE EVEN THOUGH WE ALL FELT CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY FOR THEIR PLIGHT. HOWEVER, I WAS CONCERNED THAT IN THE PRESENT CLIMATE OF UNCERTAINTY EXISTING IN VIENTIANE, THE FEARS OF THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY COULD NOT BUT INCREASE ANXIETIES AND TENSIONS IN TOWN. SPECIFICALLY, I SAID THAT I WOULD THINK THE VIENTIANE SIDE WOULD BE WELL SERVED IF IT ENSURED PARTICIPATION OF THE VIENTIANE SIDE POLICE IN MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER. IT WAS AGAINST THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENTS FOR EITHER POLICE TO CARRY OUT UNILATERAL ACTIONS, AND PL POLICE SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DO SO.

4. HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING. HE RECALLED THAT AT THE LAST CABINET MEETING WHEN THEY HAD DISCUSSED RECOGNITION OF THE PRG, HE HAD SAID THAT AS SOON AS THIS RECOGNITION WAS EXTENDED, THERE WOULD BE WIDESPREAD DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE CITY. HE SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN VERY FIRM ON THIS POINT, DECLARING THAT POLICE WOULD HAVE TO MAINTAIN "CALM AND ORDER." HE, TIANETHONE, WAS RAISED IN VIENTIANE AND UNDERSTOOD VERY WELL THE ATTITUDES OF THE VIETNAMESE HERE AND WAS VERY MUCH CONCERNED. HE THOUGHT THAT ONLY A RADIO APPEAL FOR CALM BY THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD HELP. I AGAIN MENTIONED THE NEED FOR THE VIENTIANE SIDE POLICE TO ENSURE THAT THE PL POLICE DID NOT TAKE UNILATERAL ACTIONS. HE QUITE AGREED BUT ONLY COMMENTED THAT HE

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WOULD LOOK INTO WHAT COULD BE DONE.

5. COMMENT: FOR SOME TIME, NON-OFFICIAL VIETNAMESE HAVE BEEN EXPECTING THAT ONCE PRG RECOGNIZED DRV EMBASSY HERE WOULD IMMEDIATELY TRY WITH HELP OF PATHET LAO TO FORCE ALL VIETNAMESE TO GIVE UP GVN PASSPORTS FOR DRV/ PRG DOCUMENTATION. UNLESS VIENTIANE SIDE CHECKS THIS EFFORT, MANY IN VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY WILL BE THROWN IN

STATE OF PANIC WHICH CAN ONLY FURTHER LOWER ALREADY  
SINKING MORALE OF VIENTIANE SIDE LAO. I AM CONFIDENT  
TIANETHONE UNDERSTANDS PROBLEM AND I BELIEVE SO WILL  
SOUVANNA. DEGREE OF HARDNESS OF PL'S ATTITUDE TO  
VIETNAMESE ISSUE WILL BE ONE INDICATION OF FUTURE DEVELOP-  
MENTS IN LAOS.  
CHAPMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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